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IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A seat belt device for a vehicle, comprising:

a ratchet retractor including a reel, ratchet teeth formed on the reel and a ratchet claw and capable of dispensing and retracting webbing of a seat belt, said webbing being locked by engagement of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth so that the webbing cannot be drawn out of the retractor when an acceleration equal to or larger than a predetermined value is applied to the vehicle; said ratchet retractor further including a weight adapted to be responsive to the acceleration equal to or larger than the predetermined value to effect the engagement of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth thereby to make said ratchet retractor lock the webbing;

an electronic control unit;

an electric motor driven receiving a command from the electronic control unit so as to drive said electric motor for rotation in a normal direction to take up the webbing of the seat belt when a collision of the vehicle is predetected predicted and, when the collision of the vehicle has been avoided and the acceleration has been reduced to be smaller than the predetermined value, driven said electric motor receiving a command from the electronic control unit so as to drive said electric motor for rotation in the normal direction to cancel locking thereby loosening the webbing; and

a device separate from said weight and adapted to predict the collision of the vehicle and send a signal to the ~~electric motor~~ electronic control unit indicating a possibility of the collision of the vehicle so that with said signal from the device, the electric motor ~~is~~ is commanded by the electronic control unit to be driven for rotation in the normal direction to take up the webbing of the seat belt, said device including an

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adaptive cruise control system which permits said electronic control unit to calculate said acceleration based on a vehicle speed and to carry out a predication of the collision of the vehicle,

wherein when said acceleration falls below said predetermined value so that said signal from the device indicating the possibility of the collision of the vehicle has disappeared, the electronic control unit and the adaptive cruise control system provide for the electric motor is operated to operate to drive and rotate the reel in the normal direction to rotate the reel in an amount corresponding to at least one crest of the ratchet teeth to cancel the locking, thereby loosening the webbing.

11. (Currently amended) The seat belt device according to claim 10, wherein when the collision of the vehicle is ~~predetected~~ predicted by said device, the electric motor is operated to rotate the reel in the normal direction even in a state where said ratchet claw has already been engaged with one of the ratchet teeth.

12. (Currently amended) The seat belt device according to claim 10, wherein said device is further includes one of ~~an adaptive cruise control system (ACC)~~, a vehicle stability assisting system (VSA), an electric power steering system (EPS), a supplementary restraint system (SRS), and an automatic transmission system (AT).

13. (Currently amended) A seat belt device for a vehicle, comprising:
a ratchet retractor including a reel, ratchet teeth formed on the reel and a ratchet claw and capable of dispensing and retracting webbing of a seat belt, said webbing being locked by engagement of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth so that the webbing cannot be drawn out of the retractor when an acceleration equal to or larger than a predetermined value is applied to the vehicle; said ratchet retractor further including a weight adapted to be responsive to the acceleration equal to or larger than the predetermined value to effect the engagement of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth thereby to make said ratchet retractor lock the webbing;

an electronic control unit;

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an electric motor ~~driven~~ receiving a command from the electronic control unit so as to drive said electric motor for rotation in a normal direction to take up the webbing of the seat belt when a collision of the vehicle is ~~predetected~~ predicted and, when the collision of the vehicle has been avoided and the acceleration has been reduced to be smaller than the predetermined value, ~~driven~~ said electric motor receiving a command from the electronic control unit so as to drive said electric motor for rotation in the normal direction to cancel locking thereby loosening the webbing; and

a device separate from said weight and adapted to predict the collision of the vehicle and send a signal to the ~~electric motor~~ electronic control unit indicating a possibility of the collision of the vehicle so that with said signal from the device, the electric motor ~~is~~ is commanded by the electronic control unit to be driven for rotation in the normal direction to take up the webbing of the seat belt even in an engaged state of said ratchet claw with one of said ratchet teeth, said device including an adaptive cruise control system which permits said electronic control unit to calculate said acceleration based on a vehicle speed and to carry out a predication of the collision of the vehicle.

wherein when said acceleration falls below said predetermined valve so that said signal from the device indicating the possibility of the collision of the vehicle has disappeared without any further signal from a sensor, the electronic control unit and the adaptive cruise control system provide for the electric motor ~~is operated to operate~~ to drive and rotate the reel in the normal direction to rotate the reel in an amount corresponding to at least ~~on~~ one crest of the ratchet teeth to cancel the locking, thereby loosening the webbing.

14. (Currently amended) The seat belt device according to claim 10, wherein said device ~~is~~ further includes one of ~~an adaptive cruise control system (ACC),~~ a vehicle stability assisting system (VSA), an electric power steering system (EPS), a supplementary restraint system (SRS), and an automatic transmission system (AT).